

SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT AGENDA MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Bright House Networks application for renewal of a cable television franchise.

DEPARTMENT: Community Information **DIVISION:** Cable Franchising

AUTHORIZED BY: Patti Michel **CONTACT:** Matt Chesler **EXT.** 1170

Agenda Date 1-11-05 **Regular** ☒ **Consent** ☐ **Work Session** ☐ **Briefing** ☐
Public Hearing – 1:30 ☐ **Public Hearing – 7:00** ☐

MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:

Staff is requesting direction regarding setting forth negotiations with Bright House Networks, LLC. for renewal of a cable television franchise.

BACKGROUND:




Bright House Networks current franchise for providing cable television service in unincorporated Seminole County will expire on December 31, 2005. Bright House has submitted an application for renewal of it's franchise as required by federal law and Section 55 of the Seminole County Code. The Seminole County Code also requires a "Franchise Agreement" be entered into between the County and a franchisee which sets forth the terms and conditions under which the franchise shall be exercised. Federal law provides for formal and informal negotiations of cable franchise renewals to proceed simultaneously.

Upon review of the Bright House formal application for renewal, staff determined that the application was incomplete and so notified Bright House. Bright House has not yet responded to staff's request for additional information to complete the formal application.

Bright House has also stated a willingness to proceed under an informal negotiating process. Staff has not conducted any negotiations with Bright House up to this point in time.

Major items to be negotiated include but are not limited to:

- The term of the franchise renewal (not to exceed 10 years).
- Minimum facilities and services to be provided by franchisee.
- Access channels and facilities. In addition to a government access channel (SGTV), the provision of a second channel for educational access is required under the Seminole County Code.
- Support for government and educational access channels (in the form of a financial grant, equipment, facilities, technical services or other support) to be provided by the franchisee.

Reviewed by:	
Co Atty:	
DFS:	
Other:	
DCM:	
CM:	
File No.	<u>RC101</u>

Recommendations

Staff recommends the Board appoint a franchise renewal negotiating committee to commence negotiations with Bright House Networks for a franchise renewal agreement. Proposed members of the negotiating committee are:

Cable Franchising Manager (Matt Chesler)
Assistant County Attorney (Arnold Schneider)
Community Information Department Director (Patti Michel)
Deputy County Manager (Sally Sherman)
One County Commissioner

Since one of the primary issues to be negotiated is the provision of a second channel for educational access, the Board may also wish to consider inviting a representative from the Seminole County School Board and a representative from Seminole Community College to participate in the negotiations.

Any proposed renewal agreement negotiated by this committee would be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for approval.